

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, July 23, 2009

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded:

- Absent Excused: Lana Brody and Greg Thompson
- Absent: Deputy Phillip Chen

III. Approval of Minutes –

The minutes for the month of June 25, 2009 were approved (Rabens/Wolff)

IV. Chair's Report – Commissioner Lubin

MHC/SAAC Chair Meeting – The Chair asked the Executive Director, Terry Lewis-Nwachie, to report on the activities of the monthly MHC/SAAC Chair meeting held July 14, 2009. Ms. Lewis-Nwachie updated the group that the focus of the meeting would be to discuss the transfer of Alcohol and Drug Programs Administration to DMH; specifically, the integration of services and overlapping DMH issues.

Another topic discussed by the group was the ongoing goal of the SAAC Chairs to increase receiving information and getting it in a timely manner. Ms. Eddie Lamon, Chair, SAAC 6, reemphasized the intent of the meeting was about ADPA transfer and the reorganization of the PEI plan. She also stressed the importance that receiving notices of upcoming meetings helps as a reminder and a notification of location changes.

Commission Executive Committee Meeting Report – Larry Gasco, Vice Chair

1. **Budget** – Dr. Robin Kay reported the budget deficit is mounting due to the state budget impasse and DMH is addressing the following:
 - The total deficit on that day was \$64 million
 - Mental health services will not be provided in the same manner as before. (Dr. Southard stated the deficit is now \$73 million because the state budget has not been signed)
 - PMRT after hours availability will be limited
 - Introduce crisis intervention services on initial first visit for services

2. **Follow up meeting with DMH Training Division** – Commissioners Gasco, Caballero, and Sofro met with Dennis Murata and Dr. Robin Kay to discuss the outlook of the annual conferences that were cancelled due to budget curtailments. A list of the conferences that will take place for the new fiscal year was provided at the meeting.
3. **Sharing MHC Knowledge** – “The Women’s Conference” takes place annually in Long Beach, California and is sponsored by Maria Shriver. Mr. Gasco discussed the Commission taking a role in the activities of the conference by participating or conducting a workshop. It is important that the expertise and knowledge of the leaders among the Mental Health Commission are shared nationally.
4. **Commission 2009 Annual Retreat**

The following goals were developed at the Commission annual retreat on June 6, 2009:

- Older Adults
- Homeless Mentally Ill and Housing
- Clients with both mental and physical impairments - The first step is to identify and capture the data. The Commission will be coordinating this effort with the Office of the Medical Director. The topic will be a part of the monthly agenda.

Commission FY 2008-09 Ongoing Goals

- Supported Employment and Education Services: Continue to monitor growth, and work with DMH to implement the following:
 - More staff assigned to the program Occupational Therapist lead position
 - Inclusion of employment and education services in 37 newly funded Wellness Centers
 - Develop a description to make education and employment services a job responsibility at the division chief level.
 - Connections for Life Through Employment and Education embraced by the Department of Mental Health as a conference and a concept

V. Commissioner/Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Huffman – Ms. Huffman submitted the following Housing Services report:

MHSA Housing Program

As of May 28, 2009, the Expression of Interest for the MHSA Housing Program was suspended. The Department will continue to accept Letters of Interest on a flow basis until the sufficient number of projects gets close to exhausting the current \$115 million allocation for the Los Angeles County MHSA Housing Program. Any future notification of funding will be made available on the DMH website. Thirty-one projects are actively participating in the MHSA Housing Program application process. The status of each project as of July 20, 2009 is shown below:

Initiating Service Planning/Technical Review Process

- Swarthy World Society
- KIWA Apartments
- New Genesis Apartments
- NoHo Senior Villas
- Osborne Place Apartments
- Avalon II Family Apartments
- Menlo Family Housing
- PWC Family Housing
- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- Parker Hotel
- Step Up on Hollywood
- Parkview on the Park Apartments
- Horizon Apartments
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Tarzana Treatment Center Scattered Site Housing Project
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – To be Named Project
- Willis Avenue Apartments

Finalizing Service Plan for Posting

- 28th St. YMCA Residences

Finalizing Technical Submission for Review

- Bobbi Owens Family Living Community

Posted for 30 Day Public Review and Comment

- Epworth Apartments

Preparing Full Application for Submission

- Charles Cobb Apartments

Application Submitted to the State

- Figueroa Apartments
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor

Approved for Funding by the State

- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Daniel's Village
- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens

Ongoing & Upcoming Housing Activities

The Department is currently meeting with cities and other local government entities who were recipients of Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funding about potential opportunities to leverage NSP funding with MHSA Housing Program funding.

The Department was recently awarded \$51,051 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded by the Emergency Food and Shelter Program National Board; this is federal stimulus funding administered at a local level by the Los Angeles County United Way. The funding will be utilized to provide rental and utility assistance and food and motel vouchers to mental health consumers in Service Areas 2, 4, and 6 who are homeless, as well as those who are non-traditional consumers of mental health services who may be in crisis due to the impact of the recession.

New Horizons for Commissioner Huffman

Commissioner Huffman announced in the coming months she will share her journey to successful employment through the DMH peer-to-peer process. Ms. Huffman will be officially hired by Portals as a Peer Advocate pending the final HR processing.

Commissioner Caballero – Met with USC School of Social Work representatives to discuss the needs of the aging population, particularly Latinos, to assess where the Commission may assist and help find funding.

Commissioner Rabens

Arts C.A.R.E. Program - Artists from the Education Division of the Music Center provide cultural, academic, recreational, and enrichment workshops for children in the Los Angeles County foster care system. Ms. Rabens reported the results of a 4-month evaluation completed by USC Researcher Dr. Tara Rose and students from the USC School of Social Work on the Arts C.A.R.E. Program. The evaluation was developed for clinicians to track the benefits students gain by participating in the workshops.

Arts SMART Program - The Arts SMART Program, similar to Arts C.A.R.E. that serves children in probation camps, will participate in the same evaluation process in October 2009 facilitated by UCLA students.

- Expansion plans for October 2009 includes 4 more camps
- Dr. Tara Rose hopes the results of the evaluation process will cut back on recidivism.
- DMH Jail Programs at Twin Towers is proposing to integrate the Arts SMART program into its treatment program for adults.

Commissioner Sosa - Mr. Sosa attended the WET Program meeting; the following issues were discussed:

- How to launch a program component
- Financial incentives
- The program is ready to move on action plans but has to wait for state budget to pass.
- WET committee wants to avoid scheduling an excessive number of meetings; meetings will be limited to 2 per month.

Commissioner Gasco – Visited Gladys Park in the Skid Row area. The needs in the Skid Row area are so much higher than other areas in Los Angeles County.

Commissioner Baron – Spoke with Curly Bonds regarding peer-to-peer groups and the senior population.

Commissioner McNeill – Welcome Back!

Commissioners welcomed back Mr. McNeill who has been recovering from surgery. Mr. McNeill resigned from officially representing the Commission at the CALMHB/C meetings and hopes to continue to attend regular Commission meetings.

ACTION – Commission needs to appoint another representative to replace Mr. McNeill at the CALMHB/C meetings.

VI. Departmental Report - Dr. Marvin J. Southard discussed the following:

- **Budget** – The department continues to address the economic conditions pending from the state budget stalemate. Everyday the news gets worst because mental health services continue to erode. In addition to the \$64 million mentioned last month the department is planning for an additional \$54 million shortfall. Dr. Southard commended Dr. Robin Kay for marshalling full cooperation among the contract agencies. The final recommendations for curtailment will be sent to the Board. The curtailments consist of creative cuts, collaborations, and cost trimming to minimize the damage that needs to occur.

Positive news - Dr. Southard also reported, as of today, the cuts to the CalWORKs program are not so severe. The substance abuse component proposes collaboration with DPSS. Growth of the Healthy Families program will be sustained; no new enrollment or no cuts so far.

A discussion took place on the reduction of PMRT program services due to budget curtailments. Dr. Southard stated PMRT services were cut because the CEO requested the Department reduce overtime costs by \$2 million Department wide. PMRT after hour services consumes a large percentage of overtime costs. The after hours services availability will be curtailed to meet the CEO request.

VII. Special Presentation Discussion – Proposed Transfer of Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA)

The following staffs were present to discuss the topic:

Loreto Maldonado, Manager, CEO

David Seidenfeld, Analyst, CEO

Richard Martinez, CEO, Public Health Programs

Tami Omoto-Frias, CEO, Alcohol and Drug Program

Introductions and acknowledgements were expressed among the CEO staff and the Commissioners. The CEO presenters stated the purpose of their presentation was to discuss the interim report with the Commissioners and solicit and obtain their input on the transfer. On October 7, 2008, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Antonovich instructing the Chief Executive Office to develop recommendations regarding the transfer of ADPA from the Department of Public Health to the Department of Mental Health.

The report involved collecting background information from the key participants (stakeholders); Commission on Alcoholism, Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission, and the Mental Health Commission. Each stakeholder's department formed a workgroup and produced an issue paper that identified their concerns, advantages, disadvantages and other relevant information regarding the placement of ADPA.

- The discussion proceeded with an apology from the presenters for omitting the DMH response from the issue paper that was submitted in the interim report. The Commissioners expressed concerns that the solicitation process timeline was too narrow. From the time Commissioners received the interim report, the time allowed to review and make comments was too short. Because of the short turnaround time Commissioners felt they were being asked to rubber stamp or approve the proposal. The presenters reiterated their intent was to provide the information and solicit input from the Commission as to the placement of ADPA. The Commission will not be required to approve the proposal only make comments. The CEO further discussed; a) jointly funded programs, b) other alcohol and drug program placements within the State of California and surrounding counties, 3) the 2004 California Performance Review proposing the consolidation of mental health and alcohol and drug programs. The presentation was then opened for questions and comments.

Questions/Comments – (Please note that the information provided below is a brief summary of questions and comments from Commissioners and community leaders.)

Commissioner Sosa

Question: What is the fiscal impact of the transfer?

Chair Lubin

Question: A component appears to be missing. Substance abuse involves looking at what medicines and physical health issues clients may need. Will health services and the Sheriff Department play a role in the transfer? It appears the interim report does not address the specifics of how service delivery will be improved. It appears to be just moving the boxes.

Service Area Advisory Committee 6 Chair Ms. Eddie Lamon

Question/Opinion: Request for stakeholder input was too fast. More time is needed to allow a thoughtful decision. This is the wrong time to do the transfer based on the fact there are no savings for the first year. Savings are expected to be realized next year. Ms. Lamon suggested that a review of how to provide services to clients be performed and included in interim report.

Commissioner Perrou

Question: Is ADPA looking for a place to go?

Commissioner Sofro

Comment: The budget is far too serious and fragile to decide on the integration of services for those diagnosed with co-occurring disorders and those clients who need mental health services. We need to wait until later when the state budget is not so severe.

Commissioner Askins

Comment: The proposed transfer is by no means any slam dunk. Some things will be sacrificed. Efficiency may suffer when dealing with the long term work that has already been done. Looking at the disorders is not a good way to look at the issues. We are dealing with people, not disorders. Alternatively, it can be an opportunity but it should be done very carefully. Integration could enhance treatment, but may not out weight the losses.

Dorothy Banks – SA 6 PEI

DMH is already underfunded and has a shortage of therapists and doctors. Integration of ADPA will further cut in to the existing shortage.

CEO Summary and Conclusion

The Commissioners and the CEO Representatives agreed to allow additional time for the Commission to further discuss the interim report at the August 13, 2009 Executive Committee meeting of the Commission.

David Seinfeld concluded the presentation by stating the CEO will move forward. The CEO will wait for the Commission to conduct the next Executive Committee meeting in August before finalizing the report to the Board of Supervisors.

Richard Martinez commented, many of the same concerns were expressed when they met with the Public Health and ADPA stakeholders, particularly the issue of integrating services.

Dr. Southard commented the functionality of alcohol and drug programs are severe due to the state budget process. The program is critically underfunded. It is uncertain what dollars will be available from the program. Currently, ADPA has a \$220 million budget.

Tami Omoto commented on the importance of getting feedback and comments from the community and others involved, and how much the CEO appreciates the time allowed to present.

VIII. Community and SAAC Chair Reports -- none

IX. Public Comments –

- Phyllis Cote SA 4 - Developing resource directory. The directory will be available at the end of the year.

X. Meeting Adjourned

XI. Next Meeting Information – PLEASE NOTE AUGUST IS DARK

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Noon – 2:30 pm

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Room 739

500 West Temple Street

Los Angeles, California 90012

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need additional information

Ch/ch